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Jack the Giant-Killer

**The history of Jack
and the giants**

[London]

[180-?]

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THE
HISTORY
OF
JACK
AND
The Giants.

SECOND PART.



T. Evans Printer, 79 Long-Lane.

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THE SECOND PART OF THE
HISTORY
OF
JACK & THE GIANTS.

CHAP. I.

*Of the success of Jack's petition to per-
sue divers Giants.*

JACK having been successful in all his undertakings, and resolving not to be idle for the future, but to perform what service he could for the honor of the King and Nation: Humbly besought his Majesty to fit him out with

a horse and money, to travel in search of new and strange adventures. For, said he, there are many giants yet living in the remote part of Wales, to the unspeakable damage of your Majesty's subjects, therefore may it please you to encourage me, I do not doubt but shortly to cut them off root and branch, and to rid the realm of these giants and devouring monsters in human shape.

Now, when the King had heard his noble proposition, and duly considered the mischievous practices of these blood-thirsty giants, he furnished him with necessaries for his progress. After which Jack took leave of the King and all the Knights of the Round Table & departed, taking with him his cap of knowledge, his sword of sharpness, his shoes of swiftness, and his invisible coat, the better to perform the enterprises that lay before him.



CHAP. II.

*Jack's slaying the monstrous giant and
thereby delivering a Knight and
Lady from destruction.*

JACK travelled over high hills and great mountains, and on the third day he came to a large and spacious wood through which he must pass; where on a sudden, he heard very dreadful shrieks & cries. Whereupon casting his eyes around, he beheld a monstrous giant, dragging along a worthy knight and his beautiful lady by the hair of their heads, with as much ease as if they had been a pair of gloves. Their sighs melted honest Jack into tears of pity and compassion, upon which he alighted and putting on his invisible coat, under which he carried his infallible sword, he came unto the giant, and though he made several strokes at him, yet by reason of his largeness he could not reach the trunk of his body, but only wounded his thighs in several places, at length giv-

ing him a swinging with both hands, he cut of both his legs just below the garter, so that the trunk of his body not only made the trees to shake, but the earth to tremble with the force of the fall, by which the Knight and lady escaped his rage. Then had Jack time to talk with him, so setting his foot upon his neck, he said, thou barbarous and savage wretch, I am come to execute upon thee the just reward of that villainy. And with that run him quite through the body when the huge monster set forth a hideous groan and so yielded up his breath and life unto the hands of the victorious Jack the giant-killer, whilst the noble Knight and virtuous lady were both joyful spectators of his sudden death & their deliverance. The courteous Knight and his fair lady not only returned him hearty thanks for their deliverance, but also invited him unto their house there to refresh himself after this dreadful encounter as likewise to receive an ample reward by the way of gratitude for his good services. No says Jack, I cannot be at ease till I find out

the den that was this monster's habitation. The Knight hearing this, grew sorrowful and replied, noble stranger it is too much to run a second hazard; this monster lived in a den under yonder mountain, with a brother of his, more fierce and cruel than himself; therefore if you should go thither and perish in the attempt, it would be a heart-breaking thing both to me and my lady, so let me persuade you to go with us, and desist from any further pursuit. Nay, says Jack, if there be any other, I say if they were twenty I would shed the last drop of blood in my body before one of them should escape my fury. When I have finished this task I will come and pay my respects to you. So taking directions to find their habitation, he mounted his horse, leaving them to return home while he went in pursuit of the degenerated giants brother.



CHAP. III.

Of Jack's slaying the other giant and cutting off both their heads.

JACK had not rode above a mile and a half before he came in sight of the cave's mouth. Near to the entrance of which he beheld the other giant, sitting on a huge block of fine timber, with a knotted iron club lying by his side waiting for his brother's returning, loaded with his barbarous prey. His gogling eyes appeared as it were two terrible flames of fire, his countenance was grim and ugly, and his cheeks appeared like two flitches of bacon, the bristles of his beard seemed to be like very thick rods of iron wire, and his long locks hung down upon his broad shoulders like curling snakes or hissing adders. So Jack alighted from his horse, and put him into a thicket; then with his coat of darkness he approached somewhat nearer to behold this figure; and said softly O, are you there; it will not be long

before I shall take you fast by the beard. The giant all this while could not see him, by reason of his invisible coat. So that coming close up to him, Jack struck a blow at his head with his sword of sharpness, but missing something of his aim, he only cut off the nose of the giant, who missing it roared like loud claps of thunder. And though he turned up his glaring eyes he could not see whence the blow came that had done him this diskindness; yet nevertheless taking up his iron club, he began to lay about him like one that was starkstaring mad. Nay, said Jack, if you are for that game I will dispatch you presently, for fear of some accidental blow; then as he arose from the block Jack made no more ado, but ran the sword up to the hilt in the giant's fundament, where he left it a tickling while, and stood with both his arms a kimbo, laughing to see the giant caper and dance the canaries, with the sword in his a—, crying out he should die, with the griping in his guts. After this Jack cut off his head, and sent

it together with that of his brother, to King Arthur, by a waggon he hired for that purpose; together with an account of his prosperous succeedings in all his undertakings.

CHAP. IV.

Of Jack's searching the Giant's house and delivering many.

JACK having thus dispatched these two monsters, was resolved to enter into the cave in search of the giant's treasure. He passed along through a great many turnings and windings which led him at length to a great room paved with free-stones, at the upper end of which was a boiling cauldron and on the right-hand stood a large table, whereon he supposed the giant used to dine. When he came to an iron grate, where a window was secured with bars of iron, through which he peeped, and there beheld a vast many miserable captives, who seeing Jack at a distance, cried out, alas young man, art thou come to be one

among us in this most miserable den?

Aye, said Jack, I hope you will not tarry here long: But I pray what is the meaning of this captivity? Why

said one poor old man, I will tell you sir. We are persons that have been

taken by the giant's that hold this cave, and we are kept till such a time

as they have a fancy for a feast more than ordinary, and then the fattest of

all is slaughtered, and prepared for their devouring jaws. It is not long

since they took three for the same purpose. Full many is the time they

have dined upon murdered men, say you so, says Jack; well, I have given

them such a dinner, that it will be long enough ere they have occasion

for any more. The miserable captives were amazed at his words. You may

believe me, says Jack; for I have slain them with the edge of the sword, and

have sent their monstrous heads in a waggon to the court of King Arthur,

as trophies of my glorious victory. And in testimony of the truth of what

he said, he unlocked the iron gate, setting the miserable captives at liberty,

who all rejoiced like condemned malefactors at the sight of a reprieve.——

Then leading them to the aforesaid room, he placed them round the table and set before them two quarters of beef, with bread and wine, upon which they feasted plentifully. Supper being over they searched the giant's coffers, the store of which Jack equally divided among the captives, who gratefully thanked him for their happy deliverance.

The next morning they departed to their respective habitations, and Jack to the Knight's house, whom he had formerly delivered from the hands of these monstrous giants.



CHAP. V.

*Of Jack's entertainments at the
Knight's house.*

IT was about sun rising when Jack mounted his horse to proceed on his journey, and by the help of directions he came to the Knight's house about noon, where he was received with all demonstration of joy imaginable by him and his lady, who in hon-



ourable respect to Jack prepared a feast, which lasted many days, inviting the nobility in those parts, to whom the Knight related the courage of Jack, and by way of gratitude. presented him with a ring, whereupon was engraven the picture of the giant dragging the Knight and his lady, with this motto round it.

*We were in sad distress, you see,
Under a giant's fierce command,
But gain'd our lives & liberty,
By valiant Jack's victorious hand.*

Now among the assembly then present were five aged gentlemen who were fathers to some of those miserable captives that Jack had set at liberty, who understanding he was the person that had performed such wonders, they immediately paid him their venerable respects.

After this the mirth increased, and the smiling bowl went round to the victorious conqueror. But lo! in the midst of all this mirth a dark cloud ap-

peared that daunted the hearts of the assembly. For a messenger came, who brought the dismal news that one Thundol, a giant with two heads, who having heard of the death of his two kinsmen, was come from the north, to be revenged on Jack for their death, and was within a mile of the house, the country people all flying before him like a chaff before the wind.

When they related this, Jack was not a bit daunted, but said, let him come, I have a rod to pick his teeth. Pray, ladies and gentleman, walk but into the garden and you shall be joyful spectators of the giants death and destruction. To this they all agreed every one wished him success in in his dangerous enterprise.



CHAP. VI.

*Of his overthrowing the giant, and
cutting off both his heads.*

THE good Knight's house was situated in an island encompassed with a moat thirty feet deep, and twenty wide, over which lay a draw-bridge. Jack employed two men to cut it on each side, almost to the middle, and then dressing himself in his coat of darkness, he went against the giant with his sword of sharpness; yet as he came close to him, the giant could not see him by reason of his invisible coat; yet nevertheless he was sensible of some impending danger, the which made him cry out,

Fe fa fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman,
Be he alive or be he dead,
I'll grind his bones to make me bread.

Say you so, says Jack, you are a monstrous miller indeed. To whom

the giant replied. Art thou the villian who killed my kinsmen? Then I will tear thee with my teeth and grind thy bones to powder.—You'll catch me first, says Jack; and so put off his coat of darkness, and putting on his shoes of swiftness, ran from him; the giant following after like a walking castle, making the earth to shake at every step. So Jack led him a dance that



the quality might see this monster in nature: So to finish the work, Jack ran over the draw-bridge, the giant pur-

sluing him with his club: But coming to the middle with the very great weight of his body, and the vast steps he took it broke, and he tumbled into the water and rolled about like a large whale. Jack standing by the mote laughed at him, saying, you told me you would grind my bones to powder. The giant fretted to hear him scoff at that rate, and though he plunged from place to place, he could not get out to be revenged upon his adversary.

Jack at last got a cart rope, cast it over the giant with two heads, and by the help of a team of horses, he dragged him out of the mote, and cut off both his heads in sight of all present, and before he eat or drank, he sent these after the others to King Arthur's court and then joined with them in jolly pastime.



CHAP. VII.

*Of Jack's coming to a Hermit's house,
and what happened there*

AFTER some time spent in mirth,
Jack grew weary of it, and tak-
ing his leave he went in search
of a new adventure. Through many
groves he passed till coming to a moun-
tain, he rapped at the door of a lone-
some house, when an ancient man with

s



a head as white snow, arose and let
him in. Father, said Jack, have you a
conveniency for a benighted traveller

who has lost his way? Yes said the old man, if you will accept such accommodation as my poor house affords. Jack returned him thanks for his civility; wherefore down they sat, and the old man began as follows: My son I am sensible you are a conqueror of giants, and on the top of this Mountain is an enchanted Castle, maintained by a giant named Galligantus, who by the help of a conjuror, gets many a knight into his castle, where they are transformed into sundry shapes & forms: but above all I lament a duke's daughter, whom they took from her father's garden, and brought her through the air in a chariot drawn by two fiery dragons, and securing her within the garden wall, transformed her into the shape of a hart and though many knights have strove to dissolve the enchantment, and work her deliverance, yet none could accomplish it, by reason of two fiery griffins which had destroyed them at their approach, so soon as they had fixed their eyes upon them; but you, my son, being furnished with an invisible coat, may

pass by them undiscovered, and on the gates of the castle you will find engraved in large characters by what means the enchantment may be broken. The old man having ended his discourse, Jack gave him his hand, promising in the morning to venture his life or break the enchantment, and free the lady & those that were partners with her in the same calamity.



CHAP. VIII.

*Of Jack's conquest over Galligantus
and the Conjuror; with the freedom of
many Knight's and Ladies.*

HAVING refreshed himself with a morsel of meat, he lay down, and in the morning put on his invisible coat and prepared for the enterprise. When he had reached the top of the mountains, he discovered the two fiery griffins, between whom he passed without the least fear of danger, for they could not see him by reason of his invisible coat. So soon as he got past them, he cast his eyes round him, and found a golden trumpet on the gate, under which these lines were written, —

*Who'er doth this trumpet blow,
Shalt soon the giant o'erthro',
And break the black enchantment
 strait,
So, all shall be in happy state.*

Jack had no sooner read this motto,

but he blew the trumpet, at which time all the foundation of the castle trembled, and the giant as well as the conjuror, was in a terrible confusion, biting their thumbs and tearing their hair, knowing that their wicked design was at an end. When Jack, standing at the giant's elbow, with his sword of sharpness cut off his head. The conjuror seeing this, he mounted immediately in the air, and was carried away in a whirlwind.

Thus was the whole enchantment broke and every Knight and lady who had been for a long time transformed into beasts and birds, returned to their former shapes again. And as for the castle though he seemed to be of vast strength it vanished like smoke; whereon a general joy appeared among the Knight's and ladie's. This done Gallicantus's head was likewise conveyed to King Arthur's court.

The next day having refreshed all the Knight's & ladies at the old man's habitation they set forward for the court

of King Arthur; when coming to the King and having related the passages of his fierce encounters, his fame ran through the whole court.

As a reward for his services the King prevailed on the aforesaid Duke to give his daughter in marriage to Jack, protesting there was none so deserving of her as he. This the Duke consented to and so married they were, not only to the joy of the court, but all the kingdom. After which the King, as a reward for all the services he had done the nation gave him a plentiful estate, where he and his lady lived the residue of their days in joy and content.

FINIS.

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